

TOM DAVIS, VIRGINIA,  
CHAIRMAN

DAN BURTON, INDIANA  
CHRISTOPHER SHAYS, CONNECTICUT  
ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN, FLORIDA  
JOHN M. MCCLUGH, NEW YORK  
JOHN L. MICA, FLORIDA  
MARK E. SOUDER, INDIANA  
STEVEN C. LATOURETTE, OHIO  
DOUG OSE, CALIFORNIA  
RON LEWIS, KENTUCKY  
JO ANN DAVIS, VIRGINIA  
TODD RUSSELL PLATTS, PENNSYLVANIA  
CHRIS CANNON, UTAH  
ADAM H. PUTNAM, FLORIDA  
EDWARD L. SCHROCK, VIRGINIA  
JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR., TENNESSEE  
JOHN SULLIVAN, OKLAHOMA  
NATHAN DEAL, GEORGIA  
CANDICE MILLER, MICHIGAN  
TIM MURPHY, PENNSYLVANIA  
MICHAEL R. TURNER, OHIO  
JOHN R. CARTER, TEXAS  
WILLIAM J. JANKLOW, SOUTH DAKOTA  
MARSHA BLACKBURN, TENNESSEE

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM

2157 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6143

MAJORITY (203) 225-5074  
FACSIMILE (202) 225-3974  
MINORITY (202) 225-5051  
TTY (202) 225-6652

[www.house.gov/reform](http://www.house.gov/reform)

HENRY A. WAXMAN, CALIFORNIA,  
RANKING MINORITY MEMBER

TOM LANTOS, CALIFORNIA  
MAJOR R. OWENS, NEW YORK  
EDOLPHUS TOWNS, NEW YORK  
PAUL E. KANJORSKI, PENNSYLVANIA  
CAROLYN B. MALONEY, NEW YORK  
ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS, MARYLAND  
DENNIS J. KUCINICH, OHIO  
DANNY K. DAVIS, ILLINOIS  
JOHN F. TIERNEY, MASSACHUSETTS  
WM. LACY CLAY, MISSOURI  
DIANE E. WATSON, CALIFORNIA  
STEPHEN F. LYNNCH, MASSACHUSETTS  
CHRIS VAN HOLLEN, MARYLAND  
LINDA T. SANCHEZ, CALIFORNIA  
C.A. DUTCH RUPPERSBERGER,  
MARYLAND  
ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON,  
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
JIM COOPER, TENNESSEE  
CHRIS BELL, TEXAS

BERNARD SANDERS, VERMONT,  
INDEPENDENT

November 25, 2003

The Honorable Colin Powell  
Secretary of State  
U.S. Department of State  
2201 C Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Secretary Powell:

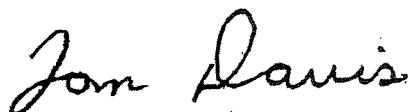
Over the course of the last two years, the Committee on Government Reform has conducted oversight of the efforts to ensure efficient and appropriate resolution of Holocaust-era insurance claims. At the Committee's most recent hearing on September 16, 2003, many witnesses stressed the need for the publication of names of Holocaust-era policyholders. Also, many witnesses, as well as Members of Congress, stressed the belief that the U.S. Government should play a more active role in helping Holocaust survivors receive their deserved insurance restitution by working more closely with our European allies.

At last week's International Commission on Holocaust-Era Insurance Claims (ICHEIC) Annual Meeting, ICHEIC staff reported that a significant number of policyholder names for policies issued in Austria had been identified but have yet to be released. It is our understanding that the present extended deadline for filing claims with the Austrian General Settlement Fund expires on November 28, 2003.

We are concerned that Austrian Holocaust survivors and their heirs could be shut out from filing legitimate claims. We therefore urge you to focus on this matter and to raise with the Austrian government the importance of extending the deadline so that additional names can be released and reviewed by Holocaust survivors.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Tom Davis  
Chairman



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Member